Message Text

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R 281407Z FEB 77
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6587
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL ADANA
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL
AMCONSUL IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A TAGS: PINT. TU

USMISSION NATO

SUBJECT: DEMIREL BUDGET APPROVED

- 1. THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT'S FY 1977 BUDGET WAS APPROVED BY THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY FEB. 27 BY A VOTE OF 233-206. (HOWEVER, PRIOR TO THE FINAL VOTE, DEMIREL'S COALITION PARTNERS JOINED WITH THE OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLE'S PARTY (RPP) AND APPROVED AN INCREASE IN CIVIL SERVICE PAY OVER THE JUSTICE PARTY'S (JP) OBJECTIONS.)
- 2. WITH THE PASSAGE OF THE BUDGET, PARLIAMENT RECESSED UNTIL MARCH 10. DURING THIS PERIOD THE VARIOUS PARTIES ARE EXPECTED TO FOCUS ON THE ISSUES OF EARLY ELECTIONS AND ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE PRESENT DEMIREL COALITION GOVERNMENT:
- A. FEYZIOGLU'S REPUBLICAN RELIANCE PARTY (RR), WHICH EARLIER HAD SUBMITTED A SERIES OF "DEMANDS" TO DEMIREL AS A CONDITION FOR LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ITS REMAINING IN THE COALITION, WILL OVER THE NEXT FEW DAYS DISCUSS THE 50-PAGE RESPONSE FROM DEMIREL BEFORE ANNOUNCING ITS DECISION ON THE STAYING OR RESIGNING.

B. PRIMIN DEMIREL TOLD REPORTERS FEB. 25 THAT THE JP
WAS NOT RPT NOT CONSIDERING SUBMITTING A MOTION FOR EARLY ELECTIONS.
HOWEVER, ACCORDING TO FEB. 28 GUNAYDIN, JP DEPUTIES ORHAN OGUZ

AND SULEYMAN CARLAR HAVE SUBMITTED AN EARLY ELECTION PROPOSAL WHICH IS PRESENTLY OPEN FOR CO-SPONSORSHIP SIGNATURES.

- C. DEP PRIMIN ERBAKAN (CHAIRMAN OF THE NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY NSP) ON FEB. 25 DENOUNCED EARLY ELECTIONS, SAYING "IF ANY OF OUR COALITION PARTNERS WORK FOR EARLY ELECTIONS IT MEANS THEY ARE AVOIDING SERVICE BECAUSE WE HAVE TO SERVE AS THE GOVERNMENT... WANTING EARLY ELECTIONS MEANS YOU HAVE LOST CONFIDENCE IN YOURSELF AND STOPPED SERVING THE STATE...ONE OF OUR PARTNERS MAY TABLE A MOTION FOR EARLY ELECTIONS, BUT THIS MAY RESULT IN ITS LOSING EVERYTHING...LET THEM THINK WELL AND THEN DECIDE."
- D. THE RPP HAS BEEN CONDUCTING A SERIES OF REGIONAL MEETINGS WITH EARLY ELECTIONS AS ONE OF THE SUBJECTS OF DISCUSSION. ACCORDING TO SOME REPORTS, MOST PROVINCIAL CHIEFS HAVE ENDORSED EARLY ELECTIONS.
- 3. COMMENT: THE EVENTS WHICH TRANSPIRE DURING THE NEXT TWO WEEKS SHOULD PROVIDE US WITH A CLEARER PICTURE OF THE FUTURE OF THE DEMIREL GOVERNMENT AND WHETHER THERE WILL BE EARLY ELECTIONS. AS WE HAVE REPORTED EARLIER, OPINION IS DIVIDED ON THE ISSUE OF EARLY ELECTIONS IN BOTH THE RPP AND JP. AFTER HAVING SAMPLED SENTIMENTS IN THEIR DISTRICTS, THE PARLIAMENTARIANS MAY RETURN TO ANKARA WITH FIRMER CONCLUSIONS.

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